

REMARKS

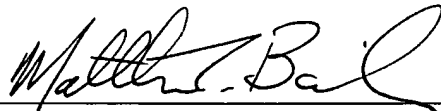
This Preliminary Amendment is being filed to put claims 3-9, 11 and 12 in proper form. No new matter is being introduced by this amendment and is respectfully requested that the above amendment be considered when the application is examined on its merits.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: January 30, 2001

HOGAN & HARTSON LLP
555 13th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004
(202) 637-5600
Customer No. 24,633

By: _____


Matthew T. Bailey
Reg. No. 33,829